

## PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 26 Feb 51	2. LOCATION Ladd AFB, Alaska	12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 26/1701Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE MIL	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1½ Min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE W
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Oblong obj. first appeared to be hovering over AB, dull grey metallic color. Obj hovered for 45 sec, then emitted one puff of white smoke proceeded S leaving no trail or sound.		11. COMMENTS WX included light snow and visibility 18,000 ft. Sighting indicates possibility of WX balloon bursting or disappearing into overcast, however, report indicated no balloon in area. Some data conflicting Case carried evaluation of unidentified in 1951.

COUNTRY  
ALASKAREPORT NO.  
IR-1-51

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## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft	
AREA REPORTED ON ALASKA	FROM (Agency) Alaskan Air Command
DATE OF REPORT 19 March 1951	DATE OF INFORMATION 26 February 1951
PREPARED BY (Officer) M. E. Boutelle, Capt., USAF	EVALUATION G-5
SOURCE Sgt. John P. Sella, AF-18303280	

REFERRENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)  
Message from ANOID-4-1934 [redacted] to C/S USAF, dated 26 February 1951.

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

1. This account covers the sighting of an unusual aerial-sighting-at-Ladd AFB by an airman on 26 February 1951.
2. The truth of this report cannot be evaluated as no material interpretation can be offered as to the origin or nature of the phenomenon reported.
3. Report has been prepared in accordance with provisions set forth by Headquarters, USAF, AF OIC - CG - 1 letter, dated 3 September 1950.

APPROVED:

*Donald W. McKinney*  
DON W. MCKINNEY  
Lt Col, USAF  
Director of Intelligence

11776

INCL.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

CG AMC ATTN: MCIS  
CINCPAC  
CO USAFAL  
COMUSAFRON

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM  $\lambda_1$  (in  $\mu$ )

REPORT NO.

#### **REFERENCES AND**

710

PAGE

6

34 GES

The following is an account of the annual capital receipts and expendi-  
ture of the Trust for Yester Year 26 February 1922.

1. File on record No. 17107 on 20 October 1960, reported observation of a bright object to be a man-made balloon. The object, [REDACTED] was reported to be a flattened football, having a greenish tint, about 100 feet in diameter and not sufficient light to determine its thickness. The apparent altitude of the object at 17,000 feet was estimated to be 17,000 feet and about 120 feet apart. The first observation was made over the many of trees in forest area with no visibility, time after first observation of object as a balloon. It remained in that position for approximately ten minutes. Then the object suddenly took off with a burst of white smoke and disappeared rapidly toward the north at a speed far in excess of that of aircraft. The following attempt to locate the object in sight failed due to its speed to the north. The white smoke was last seen only a minute ago and no aircraft or cloud formations and no sound detected. The flight was too low for the observer to determine altitude and distance. [REDACTED] The object appeared to have been moving at a high speed in a straight line and was observed to be 1000 feet above the ground. Date - 22 Oct 1960.
  2. Total file on observation of a man-made balloon from 20 October 1960 to 30 November 1961.
  3. Report of observation of visibility from the ground of man-made balloons and aircraft. According to the 1920 Almanac, India, the sun does not appear to rise above the horizon between 15° and 27° S.
  4. [REDACTED] An object noted on the south side of Jodhpur, India, by General Khan, when he observed the object about vertical height of 1000 feet and 1000 feet above the ground. He found the object to be approximately 1,000 ft.
  5. [REDACTED] An object noted on the south side of Jodhpur, India, by General Khan, when he observed the object about vertical height of 1000 feet and 1000 feet above the ground. He found the object to be approximately 1,000 ft.

1000 m: 2nd level 1000 m: 3rd level 2000 m:

**DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.19**

UNCLASSIFIED PROJECT 10075 RECORD ( )

ATIC NO. - - - DATE OF INFO 26 Feb 51  
AF NO. - - - LOCATION Ladd AFB, Alaska  
REPORT NO. - - - SOURCE Airmen  
DATE OF REPORT 21 March 51 DATE IN TO ATIC - - -  
TIME OF SIGHTING 1710Z COLOR Dull-Grey metallic  
SHAPE oblong Estimated  
SIZE - - - SPEED high Measured  
COURSE 180° ALTITUDE EST. 18,000' Measured  
NO. IN GROUP 1 LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 1 1/2 min  
SOUND - - - TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground  
PHOTOS - - - SKETCHES - - - MANEUVERS Hovered for awhile  
REMARKS: Airman on guard duty saw oblong  
aircraft without wings at approx 80°  
from horizon. It hovered over airbase for about 45 seconds  
then proceeded south at high speed. No exhaust or sound.  
Temporary ATIC Form 329 (2 Jan 52) [REDACTED] was Total time of observation  
UNCLASSIFIED 1 1/2 min. (No 112 in file)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION  
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**PRIORITY**

**PÄRÄPÄRÄSIS NOT REQUIRED. NOTIFY CRYPTOCENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING**

**FROM: ALASKAN AIR COMD, FT RICHARDSON, ALASKA**

**TO : HQ AFIC, WP AFB, DAYTON, OHIO FOR: MCIS**

**INFO: CS USAF, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
COM ALASAEAPRON  
CINCAL, FT RICHARDSON, ALASKA  
USURAL, FT RICHARDSON, ALASKA**

**NR : AF01D-4-1934**

**1 March 1951**

Fol report forwarded under provisions Eq USAF Ltr AF01C-CC-1, dated 8 Sept 1950. At 261710Z, an airman while performing interior guard duty at Ladd AFB, Alaska, reported observing what appeared to be an unconventional craft hovering over the Air Base. Object appeared oblong in shape, without appendage, and had a dull, grey metallic color. Observer estimated object to be at 18,000 feet altitude approx 80 degrees from the horizon. Object hovered over Ladd AFB for approx 45 seconds, then emitted one puff of white smoke, proceeded towards South at great speed and disappeared leaving no trail, exhaust or scuril. Total time of observation approx one and one half minutes. Observer has 20-20 vision, three and one half years service and states object definitely not a conventional craft. Ladd was at time was thin precipitation ceiling at 500 feet, visibility one and one half miles in light snow, wind calm, estimated overcast 18,000. No balloons or phenomena reported in area at time of observation. Air traffic in area was one an American C-54 which landed Ladd at 261740Z. Object not recorded by radar. No AAA firing at time of sighting. Preliminary investigation Ladd AFB and surrounding area indicates no other personnel observed object. Investigation continuing. Complete report to follow. Preliminary evaluation C-5.

**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:**

**DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.**

**DOD DIR 5200.10**

**INFO : OIN, SLO**

**CAP ID: 62679**

**(2 Mar 51)**

**MM/dk**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**COPY No.**

**THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN**

26 FEB 1951

Ladd AFB, Alaska

ALASKAN COMMAND  
JOINT COMMUNICATION CENTER  
OUTGOING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL  
PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION  
PER PARA 55g (1), AFR 205-1 OR PARAS 7 AND 23 AR 380-5  
CONSULT CRYPTOCENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

PRIORITY ✓M

UNCLASSIFIED

A 431

FROM: CG AAC

ACTION TO: CG A&C

INFO TO: C/S USAF  
CINCAL  
CG AFARAL  
COMALFAFFON

UTG: Mar 51

AACID-1-1934 for MCIS.

Following report forwarded under provisions Eq USAF Ltr AACIC-CO-1, dtid 8 Sept 50. At 261710Z, an airman while performing interior guard duty at Ladd AFB, Alaska, reported observing what appeared to be an unconventional aircraft hovering over the Airbase. Object appeared oblong in shape, without appendage, and had a dull, grey metallic color. Observer estimated object to be at 18,000 ft altitude approximately 80 degrees from the horizon. Object hovered over Ladd AFB for approximately 45 seconds, then emitted 1 puff of white smoke, proceeded towards South at great speed and disappeared leaving no trail, exhaust or sound. Total time of observation approx 1 and 1/2 minutes. Observer has 20-20 vision, 3 and 1/2 yrs service and states object definitely not a conventional aircraft. Ladd weather at time was thin precipitation ceiling at 500 ft. visibility 1 and 1/2 miles in light snow, wind calm, estimated overcast 18,000. No weather balloons or phenomena reported in area at time of observation. Air traffic in area was 1 Pan American C-54 which landed Ladd at 261740Z. Object not recorded by radar. No AAA firing at time of sighting. Preliminary investigation Ladd AFB and surrounding area indicates no other personnel observed object. Investigation continuing. Complete report to follow. Preliminary evaluation C-5.

26 FEB 1951

A 431

UNCLASSIFIED

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TOP SECRET

COPY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

~~REF ID: A6512~~  
UNCLASSIFIED

DETAILS:

1. Investigation was initiated by the District Commander, District Office #2, on 26 February 1951 and is predicated on information from 1st Lt. JENSEN J. FULLER, AO-2093701, Assistant Division Intelligence Officer, 11th Air Division, that an airman, Sgt. [REDACTED], had reported sighting an unidentified unusual object on 26 February 1951.

AT LADD AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA

2. On 26 February 1951 Sgt. [REDACTED] O, 5001st Air Base Group, was interviewed. SELLS stated that he was placed on guard duty at Building 135 at 1600Z hours 26 February 1951. At approximately 1710Z hours he was at his post at the south side of the building and he observed a large bird, probably a raven, which flew up into the air. As he watched its flight he observed an object in the air, which at first he thought to be a weather balloon. [REDACTED] stated that this object was at an altitude of about 16,000 feet and almost directly over the Ladd AFB runway. In order to observe it he had to look almost vertically at an angle of approximately 30°. This object, which appeared gray, was shaped like a flattened football, having no sharp edges. [REDACTED] stated that there was not sufficient light to determine if the object was metallic or not. Judging the altitude at 16,000 feet [REDACTED] believed its dimensions to be 10 to 12 feet thick and about 120 feet across. When first observed it was hovering over the runway and had an oscillating motion similar to that of a coin dropped on a table. It remained in this position for about 1½ seconds. Then the object emitted a single puff of smoke which formed a ring and accelerated rapidly toward the north at a speed far in excess of that of a jet aircraft. SELLS attempted to watch the flight of the object but lost it as it passed toward the general direction of Birch Hill (north). The white smoke ring lasted only a moment. There was no apparent effect on cloud formations and no sound or odor detected. The object was at such distance that [REDACTED] could not determine any structural details. [REDACTED] stated this object appeared similar to another one which he saw in May 1950 and which was observed by at least ten other individuals. [REDACTED] is an aircraft mechanic with two years military experience in that specialty. He has a total of 3½ years military service. [REDACTED] eyes are 20/20 corrected. His hobby is radio. He was not fatigued or under the effect of any stimulant at the time of observation. He is considered reliable by officers of his organization. He reported the sighting immediately to the Commander of the Guard.

3. According to the 632d ACW Squadron, Ladd AFB, there were no reported radar echoes on 26 February 1951 between 1645Z and 1730Z.

~~REF ID: A6512~~  
UNCLASSIFIED

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AF297375

Ann 12 1951

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<b>HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS</b> <b>REPORT OF INVESTIGATION</b>		FILE NO. 24-38 REPORT MADE BY ROBERT A. STAR	DATE 7 March 1951
<b>TITLE</b> UNUSUAL SIGHTING ON 26 February 1951 At Ladd AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska, By SGT. JOHN B. SELLS, AF-18303380 5001st Air Base Group		REPORT MADE AT DO #2, Ladd AFB, Alaska	PERIOD 26 February, 1, 2, 5 March 1951
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #2, Ladd AFB, Alaska	STATUS CLOSED
<b>CHARACTER</b> SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNUSUAL SIGHTING			
<b>REFERENCE</b> None, this is an initial report.			
<b>SYNOPSIS</b> <p>Investigation initiated 28 February 1951 predicated on information from 1st Lt. JESSE J. FULIER, AO-2093701, Asst. Division Intelligence Officer, 11th Air Division, that [REDACTED], 5001st Air Base Group, had sighted an unusual unidentified object on 26 February 1951.</p> <p>Investigation disclosed that SELLS, while on guard duty at 1710Z hours, [26 February 1951], allegedly sighted a gray object hovering over the Ladd runway at an altitude of 18,000 feet. The object, 10 to 12 feet thick and 120 feet across and resembling a flattened football, remained in this position about 45 seconds and then moved with great speed to the north after emitting a single white smoke ring. Object was not reported by any other person.</p> <p>There were no weather observation balloons or aircraft in the air at that time. No project work was being conducted by Cold Weather Test, Arctic Test Branch or the Geophysical Institute. No test firing was being done by units at Eielson AFB, Ladd AFB or Big Delta Army Base.</p>			
12/28			
DISTRIBUTION	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO		FILE STAMP
Hqs OSI AAC CO 5001st Comp Wg File	7 2 2	Hqs OSI AAC	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 92  1/12/51  Q.M.C.  INSPECTOR GENERAL  OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION </div>
APPROVED  DAVID W. HENRY, JR. Captain, USAF Acting DISTRICT COMMANDER			

~~SECRET~~  
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Ladd AFB reported no project work. Lt. FULLER reported he had been unable to secure any information confirming the sighting made by Sgt. SELLS.

8. The Geophysical Laboratory at the University of Alaska, College, Alaska, was contacted on 2 March 1951. The laboratory had not been conducting any project work which might have occasioned the report of the unidentified object reported by Sgt. SELLS.

9. The Weather Bureau at Meeks Field, Fairbanks, was again contacted on 5 March 1951. The Weather Bureau reported that no stations 200° to 300° from Fairbanks closer than McGrath released radiosonde Weather Balloons. This station is approximately 240 miles from Fairbanks.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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4. According to dispatcher, Base Operations, Ladd AFB, there were no aircraft in the air on 26 February 1951 between 1700Z and 1730 hours.

5. According to the Weather Station, Ladd AFB, and the Weather Station, Weeks Field, Fairbanks, there were no weather balloons released between 1600Z and 1715Z. The Weather Station at Weeks Field had released a radiosonde balloon at 1435Z. Rate of ascent of this balloon is 1,000 feet per minute.

6. The following are teletype sequences of local weather on 26 February 1951:

Fairbanks, 1730Z hours: Indefinite 2000 feet overcast; 5 mile visibility with light snow; sea level pressure 122; temperature plus 11; dew point 6; wind NW at 3; altimeter 98.4.

1630Z hours: Precipitation 1500 feet obscurement; visibility 3 miles, light snow; sea level pressure 119; temperature plus 12; dew point 8; wind SW at 3; altimeter 98.3.

Ladd AFB, 1730Z hours: Lower broken cloud layer 1500 overcast 15,000 with clouds; visibility 2 miles, light snow; sea level pressure 120; temperature 9; dew point 6, wind calm; altimeter 98.2.

1630Z hours: Precipitation 500 ft. obscure; visibility one mile light snow; sea level pressure 117; temperature 12; dew point 10; altimeter 98.2; wind calm.

The winds aloft at Fairbanks at 1710Z hours were as follows:

Surface 290° 2 knots	6000 ft. 250° 30 knots	14,000 ft. 200° 33 knots
1000 ft. 120° 4 knots	7000 ft. 250° 31 knots	16,000 ft. 210° 42 knots
2000 ft. 210° 11 knots	8000 ft. 240° 32 knots	18,000 ft. 240° 45 knots
3000 ft. 240° 19 knots	9000 ft. 240° 34 knots	20,000 ft. 240° 87 knots
4000 ft. 260° 24 knots	10,000 ft. 230° 35 knots	25,000 ft. 230° 125 knots
5000 ft. 250° 28 knots	12,000 ft. 210° 35 knots	

7. On 1 March 1951 1st Lt. JAMES J. FULLER reported that as Division Intelligence Officer he had contacted all anti aircraft and 4th Infantry units at Ladd AFB and at Eielson AFB. None of these units reported seeing any unidentified object in the sky and further, reported no firing during the time of this incident. Lt. FULLER also reported that he had contacted the Base at Big Delta, Alaska, and had received a report that there had been no firing at that station. The Arctic Test branch at Big Delta had not been conducting any project work at that time. The Cold Weather Test Unit at

## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE	112-1-51	3	3	

1. 1700 hours: Lower layer, a cloud layer 1,000 feet thick; visibility 2 miles, 110° true; sea level pressure 1010; temperature 53; dew point 36; relative humidity 70%.

2. 1700 hours: Precipitation 100 feet above sea level; visibility one mile 110° true; sea level pressure 1017; dew point 30; relative humidity 70%; wind calm.

The flight details at Ladd Air Force Base at 1700 hours were as follows:

Flight 28° S. latitude	7,000 ft. 250° 30 knots	14,000 ft. 200° 35 knots
1,500 ft. 14° N. latitude	7,000 ft. 250° 31 knots	16,000 ft. 200° 42 knots
1,500 ft. 23° 51' latitude	7,000 ft. 240° 32 knots	14,000 ft. 210° 45 knots
2,000 ft. 240° 19' latitude	9,000 ft. 240° 24 knots	20,000 ft. 240° 47 knots
1,500 ft. 250° 14' latitude	10,000 ft. 230° 35 knots	25,000 ft. 230° 12° 5° 30°
1,000 ft. 250° 07' latitude	10,000 ft. 230° 35 knots	

7. There was no weather observation balloon or aircraft in the air at this time. A project balloon was being conducted by the Weather Project on the Geophysical Institute. No test flight was being conducted at Ladd Air Force Base, Ladd Air Force Base or Hill Air Force Base.

8. There is no physical evidence, fragments, instruments, etc. to support this observation.

9. No action was taken to intercept or identify the object sighted.

10. Comments by AFIC: The source of this report is considered fairly reliable; however the report is considered improbable. A detailed interpretation can be offered as to the origin or nature of the object mentioned in this report.

AUGUST 1961  
JOHN E. MULLETT  
Captain, USAF  
SAC, Aerospace Division